

WROITWICH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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and Vice-Chairman of the COUNCIL (Ex Officio)

Public Health Officers of the Council


L. Spencer Stephens, M.B., Ch.B., D.R.O.G., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

R.F.Fry, M.I.P.H.E., M.R.S.H., A.M.I.P.C., M.A.P.H.I.,
Engineer & Surveyor, Chief Public Health Inspector.

D.G.Carter, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Deputy Engineer &
Surveyor, Public Health Inspector.

K. J. Ramsden, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Additional Public
Health Inspector

M. Johns, M.A.P.H.I., Additional Public Health Inspector
(commenced duties 1st September 1967)



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Droitwich.

Telephone : Droitwich 2288.

To The Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the health of the district for the year ended 31st December 1967.

The Vital Statistics shown in Section A. and F. are generally very satisfactory and there have been few changes in the General Medical Services for the area as shown in Section B. Ninety-one cases of Measles were notified during the year (25 fewer than in 1966) and with the introduction of Measles Vaccine during 1968 I am hopeful that this disease will soon be eliminated. The number on the Tuberculosis Register remains low (21 cases) and as each case has to remain on for at least five years the position here is very satisfactory. The number of persons Vaccinated and Immunised is in excess of the figures for 1966 and the position must be regarded as satisfactory but again I would make the plea for more adults to maintain a satisfactory vaccination state against smallpox which is always a risk in these days of rapid air travel.

I would draw your attention particularly to Sections C, D, and E. (Environmental Health Services) and the following observations :- It is a pity it was not possible to provide a Mains Water Supply for the parish of Westwood and I hope this problem will be solved in 1972 (p.13) It is hoped that the Cutnall Green Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme will be proceeded with as soon as possible as I regard it to be essential (p.14). Plans for a new Refuse Tip should be finished before the end of 1968 (p.15). The number of Public Health inspections has increased to 924 due to the appointment of an additional Public Health Inspector and this is very encouraging but my estimate of a reasonable number of inspections for the District is 1500 per annum and this is far from being attained. However, in the last four months of the year Mr. Johns carried out some useful work on Food Hygiene (p.22).

The outstanding problem which remains to be dealt with comes under the heading of "Caravans"(p.20). A survey is being carried out at present by an Officer of the County Council in conjunction with our Public Health staff and it may be that my estimate of 550 vans in the district falls short by 100 or more. I am sure firm action is necessary in this direction, particularly in relation to Green Belt Policy.

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I recommended to the Health Committee in January 1967 that a site for 50 Caravans would be advisable on the south-east side of the District, plus two Gypsy sites to the west. One will not be able to eliminate residential caravans by rehousing the occupants, praiseworthy as this is! I do not envisage any reduction in the number of caravans in the District and the only answer is to try and solve the problem as it stands. Government policy is to enforce adequate site standards once Planning Permissions have been granted in the right area. If private individuals are not willing to submit applications for this type of development then obviously the Council should consider doing so. I hope these observations will be borne in mind when the Survey is being studied.

May I thank you Mr. Chairman for your courtesy and encouragement during the year and the staff of the Public Health department for their assistance.

Yours faithfully,

L. SPENCER STEPHENS,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

VITAL STATISTICS

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| Area in Acres | 50,432 | | |
| Number of Houses according to Rate Book (31st March 1967) | 4,817. | | |
| Rateable Value at 31st March 1967 | £535,891. | | |
| Registrar General's estimate of resident population | 15,300. | | |
| <u>Live Births</u> | <u>Males</u> | <u>Females</u> | <u>Total</u> |
| Legitimate | 121 | 143 | 264 |
| Illegitimate | 11 | 11 | 22 |
| Illegitimate live births as percentage of total live births | 8% | | |
| Standardised birth-rate per 1,000 estimated population | 19.6 | | |
| Birth rate for England and Wales | 17.2 | | |
| <u>Still Births</u> | <u>Males</u> | <u>Females</u> | <u>Total</u> |
| Legitimate | 7 | 1 | 8 |
| Illegitimate | - | - | - |
| Still birth rate per 1,000 total live and still births | 27.0 | | |
| Still birth rate for England and Wales | 14.8 | | |
| <u>Deaths</u> | <u>Males</u> | <u>Females</u> | <u>Total</u> |
| From all causes | 102 | 68 | 170 |
| Standardised death rate per 1,000 estimated population | 11.5 | | |
| Death rate for England and Wales | 11.2 | | |
| Deaths of Infants under one year of age - | | | |
| | <u>Males</u> | <u>Females</u> | <u>Total</u> |
| Legitimate | - | 3 | 3 |
| Illegitimate | - | - | - |
| Infantile Mortality rate per 1,000 live births | 10 | | |
| Infantile Mortality rate for England and Wales | 18 | | |
| Death of Infants under 4 weeks of age - | | | |
| | <u>Males</u> | <u>Females</u> | <u>Total</u> |
| Legitimate | - | 3 | 3 |
| Illegitimate | - | - | - |
| Neonatal Mortality rate per 1,000 live births | 10 | | |
| " " " for England and Wales | 12 | | |
| Perinatal Mortality rate per 1,000 total births | 34 | | |
| " " " for England and Wales | 25 | | |
| Maternal Deaths (including abortion) | Nil | | |
| " Mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births | Nil | | |

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1967

(according to International Statistical Classification of Disease)

| | <u>Males</u> | <u>Females</u> |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| 1. Tuberculosis, respiratory | - | - |
| 2. Tuberculosis, other | - | - |
| 3. Syphilitic disease | - | - |
| 4. Diphtheria | - | - |
| 5. Whooping Cough | - | - |
| 6. Meningococcal infections .. . | - | - |
| 7. Acute Poliomyelitis | - | - |
| 8. Measles | - | - |
| 9. Other Infective and parasitic diseases | - | - |
| 10. Malignant neoplasms, stomach .. . | 2 | 2 |
| 11. Malignant neoplasms, lung, bronchus | 10 | 1 |
| 12. Malignant neoplasms, breast | - | 1 |
| 13. Malignant neoplasms, uterus | - | 3 |
| 14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms | 13 | 5 |
| 15. Leukemia, aleulaemia.. .. . | 2 | - |
| 16. Diabetes | 1 | - |
| 17. Vascular lesions of nervous system | 14 | 12 |
| 18. Coronary Disease, Angina | 23 | 7 |
| 19. Hypertension with heart disease | 2 | 3 |
| 20. Other heart disease | 8 | 12 |
| 21. Other circulatory disease | 3 | 4 |
| 22. Influenza | - | - |
| 23. Pneumonia | 5 | 4 |
| 24. Bronchitis | 4 | 3 |
| 25. Other diseases of respiratory system | - | - |
| 26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum | 2 | - |
| 27. Gastritis | - | - |
| 28. Nephritis and Neophrosis | 1 | - |
| 29. Hyperplasia of prostate | 2 | - |
| 30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion | - | - |
| 31. Congenital malformations | 1 | 1 |
| 32. Other defined and ill-defined disease | 5 | 9 |
| 33. Motor Vehicle Accidents | 2 | - |
| 34. All other accidents | 1 | 1 |
| 35. Suicide | 1 | - |
| 36. Homicide and operations of war | - | - |
| | <hr/> | |
| | TOTAL | |
| | 102 | 68 |
| | <hr/> | |

S E C T I O N B.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES.

FOR THE AREA.

A. County Health Services

The following Services are provided by the County Council in accordance with Part III of the National Health Service Act 1946.

Care of Mothers and Young Children (Section 22)

The District is served by the following Clinics -

Infant Welfare Centres

Baptist Hall, Droitwich - open every Tuesday at 2.0 p.m.

Memorial Hall, Ombersley - open on the 1st and 3rd Fridays in the month at 2.0 p.m.

Parish Hall, Hanbury - open on the 3rd Thursday in the month at 2.30 p.m.

Village Hall, Crowle - open on the 4th Wednesday in the month at 2.30 p.m.

Memorial Hall, Fernhill Heath - open on 2nd and 4th Fridays in the month at 2.0 p.m.

Village Hall, Wychbold - open on the 1st and 3rd Mondays in the month at 2.30 p.m.

Parish Hall, Hartlebury - open on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays in the month at 2.30 p.m.

National Dried Milk, Cod Liver Oil, Orange Juice and other baby foods may be obtained at these centres. A doctor is usually in attendance; a fully qualified Health Visitor is always present.

Antenatal Clinics.

It is now County policy that antenatal cases should be cared for as far as possible by their own doctor. Clinics are available however, at which expectant mothers are encouraged to attend regularly in order to meet the midwife, receive health education, and carry out antenatal exercises under the direction of a physiotherapist.

Baptist Hall, Droitwich - open 2nd and 4th Thursdays in the month at 2 p.m.

Recreation Road, Bromsgrove - open every Monday at 2.0 p.m.

Coventry Street, Kidderminster - open every Monday at 2.0 p.m.

Midwifery (Section 23)

The services of a County midwife are available without charge to care for mothers during pregnancy, confinement and for a period of ten days afterwards. She should be booked as early as possible in order to receive adequate instruction for the confinement. Visits are paid to the home and examinations carried out monthly in co-operation with the doctor, who will arrange hospital consultations if necessary. Free dental treatment is available during this period and may be arranged through the County Dental Officer.

Health Visiting and Home Nursing (Sections 24 and 25)

After the first ten days the Health Visitor takes over responsibility for the care of the baby from the midwife. She is a trained nurse who has received additional instruction in child care, maintenance of health and prevention of disease, and is able to offer guidance to the mother until the child goes to school. Particular attention is paid to premature babies and those placed for adoption or with foster parents. The Health Visitor also acts as school nurse and being an experienced medico-social worker is able to give advice to the adult members of the family on personal problems related to physical or mental ill-health.

The District Nurse is available to act on the instructions of the general practitioner or hospital; when a patient is discharged to make arrangements for domiciliary care. She carries out nursing procedures and may be called upon in an emergency. In most instances the District Nurse is also the Midwife and acts as Health Visitor, but in urban areas it is sometimes more convenient to split their duties.

The following nurses are working in Droitwich Rural District -
Miss U. Eldridge, Miss E. Hill and Miss T. Mann - Health Visitors -
Royal George Buildings, Hanbury Road, Droitwich - Tel: Droitwich 3328.

Miss Eldridge - Hampton Lovett, Cutnall Green.

Miss Hill - Primsland, Newland, Hadzor, Tibberton, Crowle, Warndon, Sale Green, part Claines and Bevere.

Miss Mann - Stoke Works, Wychbold, Elmbridge, Crutch Lane, Westwood.

Nurse Cracklow - 7, Old Turnpike Road, Crowle - Tel: No.: Upton Snodsbury
DN/MW. 259.

Nurse Williams, - Nurse's House, Droitwich Road, Hanbury - Tel: No.:
DN/MW/HV. Hanbury 209.

Nurse Nash - 8, Perrycroft Close, Fernhill Heath - Tel: No. Fernhill
DN/MW/HV. Heath 304.

Nurse Mills - 14, Appletree Walk, Ombersley - Tel: No: Ombersley 341.
DN/MW/HV.

Nurse Roberts - 27, Waresley Court Road, Hartlebury - Tel: No.: Hartlebury
DN/MW/HV. 200.

Nurse Smith - 64, Oakland Avenue, Droitwich - Tel: No.: Droitwich 2802.
DN/MW (Relief Nurse)

Vaccination and Immunisation (Section 26)

Vaccination against Smallpox and Poliomyelitis and Immunisation against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus are carried out free of charge at any of the County Clinics or by the patient's own doctor.

The following inoculations were completed during 1967.

(figures in brackets relate to the previous year)

1. Smallpox Vaccination

| | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------|----------|-----------|
| No. of persons who received primary vaccination during | | |
| | the year | 175 (164) |
| No. of persons who were re-vaccinated during the year | | 13 (6) |

2. Poliomyelitis Vaccination

This scheme is administered direct from the County Health Department, Love's Grove, Castle Street Worcester and details are published in the County Medical Officer's Annual Report.

Sabin Vaccine is now used, being administered orally in syrup or on a lump of sugar. Three doses are administered to babies at 6 - 9 mths. old and a fourth dose at 5 years of age. Adults are also strongly advised to complete a primary course of vaccination.

3. Diphtheria Immunisation (including Tetanus)

| | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----------|-----------|
| No. of children who received the full course during | | |
| | the year | 311 (265) |
| No. " " " " re-inforcing doses | | 457 (265) |

4. Whooping Cough Immunisation

| | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----------|-----------|
| No. of children who received the full course during | | |
| | the year | 257 (254) |
| No. " " " " re-inforcing doses | | 178 (122) |

5. B.C.G. Vaccination

The County Council operate a scheme for the preventative inoculation of all children leaving school. This is a valuable protective measure against Tuberculosis and is doing much to reduce the number of cases on the register.

Ambulance Service (Section 27)

Cases of illness or sudden and urgent illness are responded to irrespective of the source of the call. All that is necessary is to ask the telephone operator for Ambulance after dialling 999. The Service is under radio-control from Worcester and ambulance stations are strategically situated throughout the County.

Requests for hospital cars should be made to the County Ambulance Officer, who will decide whether this form of transport is suitable. Patients suffering from infectious diseases are conveyed to hospital in special ambulances.

Prevention of Illness, Care and After Care (Section 28)

Convalescent care is provided for children and adults not requiring treatment. This type of recuperative holiday is frequently recommended and persons are required to contribute according to their means. Medical comforts depots are maintained in various parts of the County by the St. John Ambulance Brigade and the British Red Cross Society. Requests for nursing equipment, such as bedpans, pulleys, hoists, etc., should be made to the District Nurse or County Health department.

Persons suffering from Tuberculosis may be assisted in many ways. Tuberculosis Health Visitors work from the Chest Clinic and will assist patients to make the best use of services available. Occupational therapy is available for patients suffering from lengthy illnesses or who are undergoing prolonged convalescence. A chiropody scheme is now in operation for aged and handicapped persons, and is being extended. A Health Education Organiser has also been appointed to provide instruction on health matters in an attempt to reduce illness. This is particularly important in relation to accidents in the home, food hygiene and cancer.

Domestic Help (Section 29)

The Home Help Service has recently been reorganised by the County Council on an area basis. Enquiries relating to the Rural District should be addressed to - Mrs. A. Friend, Area Organiser, Royal George Buildings, Hanbury Road, Droitwich. The service provides domestic help for the aged, in sickness and for maternity cases during confinement.

Mental Health (Section 51)

The Mental Health Service has been expanded to deal with the provisions of the Mental Health Act 1959. The Act abolishes the term mental deficiency and introduces the term "mental disorder" which includes subnormality, severe subnormality, mental illness and psychopathic disorder. Mental Welfare Officers have been appointed who act in conjunction with approved medical officers and hospital services.

Statutory duties of the County Council include -

- (a) the provision of residential accommodation.
- (b) the provision of training or occupation centres (available at Stourport, Bromsgrove and Lower Wick).
- (c) the exercise of functions relating to persons placed under guardianship.
- (d) the provision of ancillary services for persons suffering from mental disorder.

Welfare Services (National Assistance Act 1948)

The Welfare Services are administered by the Welfare Section of the Health Department under the direction of the County Welfare Officer. The following facilities are available -

- (a) residential accommodation for the elderly who are unable to look after themselves in their own homes.
- (b) temporary accommodation for persons in urgent need.
- (c) special services for blind persons.
- (d) special services for deaf and dumb persons.
- (e) special assistance for other handicapped persons.

School Health Service (Education Act 1944)

The County Medical Officer is also Principal School Medical Officer. School Medical Officers visit all Primary and Secondary schools in the district at regular intervals.

Every school child receives three medical examinations during his or her school life, but children in whom abnormalities are detected are seen more frequently. Special visual acuity and colour tests are given at 7 - 8 years old, children in need of attention being referred to the School Oculist.

Routine testing of hearing is now carried out using a pure-tone audiometer and children with defective hearing are referred to special clinics for further investigation.

The services of a Speech Therapist are available and orthopaedic defects are kept under supervision by the Orthopaedic Sister.

Children with behaviour disorders or other problems are seen at the Child Guidance Clinic, Love's Grove, Worcester.

School Dental Service

The Dental Health of all children in maintained schools is supervised at regular intervals, inspections being carried out on the premises. Subsequently treatment is carried out at the nearest fixed clinic, or in one of the mobile dental clinics now available. Clinics are available at Bromsgrove, Stourport and Kidderminster.

County Analyst.

The County Analyst is available to examine public water supplies, sewage effluent, milk, food and drug samples. The arrangements for the routine sampling of all milk supplies is in the hands of the County Public Health Inspector.

B. Hospital Services.

These services are administered by the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board.

1. General hospitals with casualty departments are situated at Worcester, Bromsgrove and Kidderminster.
2. Maternity beds are available at Worcester, Bromsgrove and Stourport.
3. Infectious diseases are usually admitted to Newtown Isolation Hospital, Worcester where beds are also available for the treatment of Pulmonary Tuberculosis. Special cases may, however, be sent to Little Bromwich Hospital, Birmingham.
4. The elderly and chronic sick are accommodated at Shrub Hill, Worcester, Bromsgrove or Blakebrook, Kidderminster.
5. Psychiatric Hospitals for mental disorders are available at Powick, Barnsley Hall and Lea Hospital, Bromsgrove.
6. St. John's Hospital and Highfield Hospital, Droitwich are national hospitals for the treatment of rheumatic diseases. Spa treatment is also available through the out-patient department at the Brine Baths, or privately.
7. A Thoracic surgery unit has been established at Hill Top Hospital, Bromsgrove dealing mainly with congenital heart lesions in children.

8. Laboratories are available in all General Hospitals, but at Worcester Royal Infirmary a branch of the Public Health Laboratory Service has been established. This organisation, with reference laboratories in London and elsewhere, is designed to assist local authorities in their investigations into outbreaks of communicable disease.

9. Venereal Diseases.

Venereal diseases are diagnosed and treated at a special out-patient department (adjacent to the Chest Clinic at the Worcester Royal Infirmary). Sessions are held from 5 - 7 p.m. on Mondays (both sexes - separate departments) on Thursdays 2 - 4 p.m. (women) and Fridays 2 - 4 p.m. (men).

C. General Medical Services.

Persons arriving in the district and wishing to register with a general practitioner may obtain a list of names and addresses of all the doctors available, at any post office.

The services of dentists, opticians and pharmacists practicing in the district come under the control of the Worcestershire Executive Council, 29 Foregate Street, Worcester, to whom enquiries should be made.

S E C T I O N C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. Water Supplies

The East Worcestershire Waterworks Company are the statutory water undertakers for the greater part of Droitwich Rural District. Twenty out of twenty-two parishes are now supplied by them. The remaining two parishes are supplied as follows :-

- (1) Warndon - by an extension from the Worcester City mains (controlled by the Council).
- (2) Hartlebury - by the North West Worcestershire Water Board. (this water is supplied from Bewdley via Stourport)

| Area | Supplied by | No. of Houses on Mains | Estimated Population | Total (mid.67) Population |
|-------------|------------------|------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 20 Parishes | E.W.W. Co. | 3,092 | 10,822 | 12,870 |
| Hartlebury | N.W.W. Board | 580 | 1,885 | 2,370 |
| Warndon | Droitwich R.D.C. | 10 | 35 | 60 |
| Totals | | 3,682 | 12,742 | 15,300 |

This indicates that approximately 83% of the population are supplied with Mains Water. The remainder rely upon shallow wells, apart from a few farms where boreholes have been sunk for agricultural purposes. 11 out of a total of 22 samples taken from wells during 1967 were reported as unfit for drinking and appropriate steps taken to protect the consumer.

Five bacteriological results are submitted as follows taken at source from their supplies and one from Hartlebury Parish in relation to the North West Worcestershire supply :-

WATER AS DELIVERED INTO SERVICE ON 27TH NOVEMBER 1967.

| Marked | Number of colonies growing on Agar 2 days at 37°C 3 days at 22°C | | Probable Number of Coliform Bacilli | Probable Number of Faecal Coli | Remarks. |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------|
| <u>Per</u> | <u>1 ml.</u> | <u>1 ml.</u> | <u>100 ml.</u> | <u>100 ml.</u> | |
| No.1. Borehole Burcot P/Stn. | 2 | Nil | Nil | - | satisfactory |
| No.2 Borehole Sugarbrook P/Station | 6 | 5 | Nil | - | " |
| No.2 Borehole Washingstocks P/Station | 4 | 311 | Nil | - | " |
| No.1. Borehole Wildmoor P/Station | 3 | 19 | Nil | - | " |
| No.2 Borehole Brockhill P/Station | 4 | 4 | Nil | - | " |
| Tap - Martyn's Saw Mills, Hartlebury | Nil | Nil | Nil | - | " |

Westwood Estate

This is the only parish without a mains supply and includes some 28 houses or flats (estimated population 92). After abortive attempts to obtain a mains supply, which turned out to be too expensive, it was decided that the water ought to be chlorinated.

The supply comes from a spring at the edge of a lake where there is undoubtedly some surface pollution, nine of the sixteen samples taken being classified as unfit for human consumption. A Statutory Notice was served in November 1967 and has now been complied with. It is hoped that the East Worcestershire Water Company will lay a main through the centre of the estate in 1972 when a supply will be more easily obtained.

2. Sewerage & Sewage Disposal

Fernhill Heath. Work was in progress on major extensions to the Fernhill Heath Sewage Disposal Works during 1967. This was necessary (a) due to overloading of the existing works and (b) due to fairly considerable Private building in two areas - (i) between Station Road and the Tapenhall Estate and (ii) behind "The Cedars", where an old peoples block of flats is also being considered. The improvements to the works consisted of -

- (1) New Inlet works - screening and detritus channels,
- (2) One Radial Flow mechanically scraped Settlement Tank, capacity 29,350 gallons.
- (3) Conversion of the existing settlement tanks to storm tanks giving three in all with total capacity of 39,000 gallons.
- (4) Dosing Chamber and one new Percolating Filter giving three in all with total media content of 1,260 cubic yards.
- (5) Two Horizontal Flow Humus Tanks giving four in all with a total capacity of 21,800 gallons.
- (6) Eight Sludge Drying Beds giving thirteen in all with a total area of 650 square yards.
- (7) Replacement of the existing pumping plant with electrically operated automatically controlled equipment.
- (8) Repairs to the block walls of the existing filters.

This now provides for a population of some 3,000 persons at thirty gallons per head per day, a dry weather flow of 90,000 g.p.d., which should be adequate for the needs of the parish for some years to come.

Cutnall Green. A sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for this village as designed by the Consulting Engineer is still awaiting Ministry approval. Certain drainage nuisances have been in evidence in the vicinity of the chequers Inn and in a ditch between the new private bungalows and houses on New Road. A fair quantity of crude sewage also runs away from the older properties along the B4192 into a field south-east of New House Farm. The Council House plant is overloaded and there is little doubt that this scheme is overdue.

A list of priorities was drawn up by the Surveyor in September 1966 and were included in last year's annual report. The most urgent village schemes now are - Himbleton, Bradley Green, Ladywood, Sale Green and Earls Common.

3. Refuse Collection and Disposal

The Paper Sack system of Refuse Collection continues to be extended systematically to all Council property. This facility is available to private householders, the paper sacks being provided free of charge. The system works well in areas where there is a weekly collection but there have been difficulties with fortnightly collection, mainly because householders do not bother to change over to the second sack, the first one becoming overloaded.

The Chaseside Super Loadmaster has done good work on the Refuse Tip at Briar Coppice, Westwood, the general condition of the tip being very satisfactory. It is a pity that a move will have to be made within the next twelve months, but the land is required for Housing development as part of overspill development for the Borough of Droitwich. Temporary arrangements are being entered into for tipping facilities at Fernhill Heath.

4. Public Health Inspections

The following routine inspections were carried out by the Public Health Inspectors during 1967 -

A. Housing Act 1957

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Section 9 (Repairs) | 52 |
| Section 16 (Unfit Premises) | 13 |
| Section 42 (Clearance Area) | - |
| Section 76 (Overcrowding) | <u>19</u> |
| | <u>84</u> (103) |

B. Public Health Acts 1936 and 1961

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Nuisances from Premises | 43 |
| Nuisances from Animals | 5 |
| Nuisances from Refuse | 13 |
| Nuisances from Dust, Effluvia | 14 |
| Nuisances from Workplaces | 6 |
| Nuisances from Noise | <u>-</u> |
| | <u>81</u> (81) |

C. Drainage Problems (Sewage & Water)

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Obstructions | 41 |
| Cesspools and Septic Tank | 32 |
| Ditches | 54 |
| Drainage Tests | 34 |
| Inspection of Wells and Water Samples | 46 |
| Pollution of Rivers, etc.. .. . | <u>47</u> |
| | <u>254</u> (176) |

D. Food & Drugs Act 1955

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Slaughterhouse | 191 |
| Bakehouses | 6 |
| Shops | 53 |
| Cafes | 26 |
| Vans | 6 |
| Other Food Premises | 68 |
| Ice Cream Samples | <u>-</u> |
| | <u>350</u> (206) |

E. Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963

| | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Inspections.. .. . | <u>37</u> |
| | <u>37</u> (2) |

F. Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960.

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Residential Sites | 52 |
| Holiday Sites | 26 |
| Camping Sites, etc. | <u>12</u> |
| | <u>90</u> (97) |

G. Other Inspections

| | |
|---------|----------------|
| | <u>28</u> |
| | <u>28</u> (20) |

Grand Total 924 (685)

(N.B. figures in brackets relate to the previous year.)

5. Rodent Control - 1967.

Regular inspections of dwelling houses and business premises are carried out throughout the District. Quite a number of Agricultural contracts are held and treatment under such agreements form no small proportion of the work.

The analysis of work carried out under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949, is as follows :-

| <u>Properties other than sewers</u> | <u>Type of Property</u> | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| | <u>Non-Agricultural</u> | <u>Agricultural</u> |
| 1. Number of properties in District | 4842 | 759 |
| 2. a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification | 655 | 105 |
| b) Number infested by (1) Rats | 127 | 21 |
| (2) Mice | 7 | - |
| 3. a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification | 1184 | 139 |
| b) Number infested by (1) Rats | 163 | 43 |
| (2) Mice | 35 | 6 |
| <u>Sewers</u> | | |
| 4. Number of Sewers infested by Rats during the year | Nil | |

6. Factory Inspections

The Local Authority is generally only responsible for inspection of sanitary conveniences in factories, under Section 7 of the 1937 Act. Where there are premises which do not use mechanical power however, other conditions apply as they do also to outworkers premises.

The following inspections were carried out during the year :-

Part I of the Act

(1) Inspection for purposes of provision as to health

| Premises (1) | Number on Register (3) | Inspections (4) | No. of Written Notices (5) | Occupiers Prosecuted (6) |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| (a) Factories in which Secs. 1,3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities | - | - | - | - |
| (b) Factories not included in (a) in which Sec.7 is enforced by the Local Authority | 42 | 18 | - | - |
| (c) Other premises in which Sec.7 is enforced by the Local Authority (including outworkers premises) | 35 | 22 | - | - |
| TOTAL | 76 | 38 | - | - |

(2) Cases in which defects were found Nil

Part VIII of the Act

Outwork - Nil Return.

S E C T I O N . D .HOUSING1. Housing Programmea) Council Houses

i) No. of new dwellings completed by the 31st December 1967 -

| | |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Three bedroomed houses, Ombersley | 15 |
| Two " flats, " | 9 |
| One " " Fernhill Heath | 2 |
| Two " " " " | 10 |
| Total = | <u>36</u> |

b) Private Houses

i) No. of Private dwellings completed during 1967 .. 89

ii) " " " " under construction
at 31st December 1967-103c) Improvements and Conversions to Private Houses during 1967 -
(figures in brackets relate to the previous year)i) Discretionary Grants

| | | |
|-------------------------------------------|---------|-----------|
| Applications received | 17 | (15) |
| " approved | 17 | (15) |
| No. of dwellings involved | 20 | (17) |
| Applications withdrawn or refused | 1 | (-) |
| Total amount of grant-aided work | £17,420 | (£16,340) |
| Amount of grants approved | £6,868 | (£6,482) |
| Average grant per dwelling | £361 | (£381) |
| Amount of Grant paid during year | £8,851 | (£10,333) |

ii) Standard Grants

| | | |
|----------------------------------------------|--------|----------|
| Applications received and approved | 29 | (26) |
| Maximum grants payable | £6,205 | (£5,183) |
| Amount of grants paid during year | £5,628 | (£5,599) |

2. Slum Clearance

In 1956 the Minister of Housing and Local Government asked for a special slum clearance drive and our target at that time was 200 houses in 10 years. This figure has now been exceeded but a lot of old property has also deteriorated in the meantime. An estimate of the amount of work to be carried out in the next 10 years must now be made.

Another problem is that although 171 Demolition Orders have been served, according to records only 105 have been demolished or closed leaving 66 properties which may still be occupied. (see table below)

| <u>Slum Clearance Position at 31st December 1967.</u> | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Demolition | Up to 1960 | 1961 | 1962 | 1963 | 1964 | 1965 | 1966 | 1967 | Total |
| 1) Notices of Time & Place served | 132 | 10 | 18 | 8 | 3 | 34 | 7 | 5 | 217 |
| 2) Demolition Orders served | 107 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 7 | 29 | 6 | 3 | 171 |
| 3) Undertakings accepted from owners | 25 | - | 4 | - | - | 4 | - | 1 | 34 |
| 4) Deferred or awaiting decision | - | 1 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 12 |
| 5) Demolished or Closed | 33 | 12 | 7 | 4 | 13 | 8 | - | 1 | 78 |
| 6) Clearance Areas | 7 | - | - | 20 | - | - | - | - | 27 |

This requires a careful search back through the Registers and now that we have an extra Public Health Inspector this should be possible.

3. Caravans

It is estimated that at least 550 Caravans are normally resident in the district. The numbers fluctuate widely between the summer and winter months, due to an influx of seasonal agricultural workers, particularly in the parish of Ombersley. Some of these caravans remain on site throughout the winter for, although seasonal work is no longer available, it is fairly easy for the occupants to obtain employment locally. There are also a number of unplanned sites where site standards are extremely low. An arrangement has now been made with the County Council for the services of an ex-police officer to carry out a survey of the district, but at the end of the year a start had not been made owing to "Foot and Mouth" restrictions.

A list of sites which have been granted Planning Permission and Site Licences follows. It will be observed that a three year run-down procedure is in operation on the Chateau Impney Caravan site as it is in the Green Belt. Clareland Holiday site has not yet been developed but has outline Planning permission.

A. Permanent Residential Sites.

| | <u>Permitted No. of Vans</u> | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Sunnyside, Claines - just outside the Worcester City boundary on main A38 road | 17 | |
| 2. "Eagle & Sun", Hanbury Wharf - approx. 1 mile east of Droitwich on Stratford road | 24 | |
| 3. Chateau Impney, Droitwich - off main A38 road $\frac{3}{4}$ mile north of Droitwich (N.B. Planning permission expires 31st March 1968) | 32 | |
| 4. Dunhampton - to rear of Robert's Garage, on main A449 road to Kidderminster | 24 | |
| 5. "Fruiterer's Arms", Ombersley - $\frac{1}{2}$ mile west of main A449 road to Uphampton | <u>20</u> | |
| Total | <u>117</u> | 117 |

B. Holiday Sites

| | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| 1. "Fruiterer's Arms", Ombersley (as above) | 30 | |
| 2. Wharf Hotel, Holt Fleet on left side of main road approaching bridge over river Severn from Ombersley | 44 | |
| 3. Bricks Farm, Holt Fleet - on right side of main road approaching bridge over river Severn .. . | 107 | |
| 4. Winnall Farm, Winnall, Nr. Stourport - east bank of river Severn, 2 miles south of Stourport .. . | 48 | |
| 5. Mutton Hall, Boreley - east bank of river Severn opposite the Lenchford Hotel | 10 | |
| 6. Mill House, Hawford - on main A449 road, 4 miles north of Worcester | 15 | |
| 7. "Clarelands", Totton, Nr. Stourport (not yet developed) | <u>90</u> | |
| Total | <u>344</u> | <u>344</u> |
| <u>Grand Total</u> | | <u>461</u> |

S E C T I O N E.

INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

1. Food Premises

A considerable improvement has been effected here, the number of premises inspected, increasing from 206 to 350 as can be seen from Table 4D on page 16. One hundred per cent Meat Inspections has always been carried out (see p.23) and the increase was mainly due to Shop Inspections (in conjunction with the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act). by the newly appointed Public Health Inspector, who arrived on 1st September 1967.

2. Ice Cream and Milk.

Fifty-five shop premises are registered for the sale of Ice-Cream, all offering the pre-packed product only. Soft ice-cream is only sold from mobile vehicles operating from other districts. Unfortunately no sampling was possible during the year.

The Milk and Dairies Regulations are largely administered by Worcestershire County Council. There are three pasteurisation plants in the district and the County Public Health Inspector has samples taken from a variety of sources.

The samples taken during 1967 were as follows :-

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| Pasteurised Milk | 26 |
| Sterilized Milk | 1 |
| Raw (Tuberculin Tested) | <u>12</u> |
| Total | <u>39</u> |

All samples passed the necessary tests.

3. Food & Drugs.

Worcestershire County Council are the Food and Drug Authority. The Food and Drug Inspectors operate from Stourport, collecting samples and submitting them to the County Analyst. Being an agricultural district much of this work is in respect of chemical samples on milk. The results are normally published by the County Analyst.

4. Meat Inspection

There is one licenced private slaughterhouse at Ombersley, the following meat was inspected during 1967 :-

| | Cattle including Cows | Calves | Sheep and Lambs | Pigs. |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------|-----------------------|-------|
| Number killed (if known) | 160 | 15 | 1379 | 395 |
| Number inspected | 160 | 15 | 1379 | 395 |
| All diseases except Tuberculosis. Whole carcasses condemned. | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned | 3 | Nil | 14 | 3 |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis | 1.87% | Nil | 1.0% | 0.9% |
| <u>Tuberculosis only</u> Whole carcasses condemned | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned | Nil | Nil | Nil | 3 |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis | Nil | Nil | Nil | 0.9% |
| Cysticercosis | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |

S E C T I O N F

Incidence of Infectious Disease

The following table shows the incidence of Infectious Disease in relation to Age in the Rural District during 1967 :-

| Disease | Under ONE year | 1 - 15 yrs. | 16 - 25 yrs. | Adult | Total |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|----------------|-----------------|-------|-------|
| 1. Scarlatina | - | 1 | 1 | - | 2 |
| 2. Erysipelas | - | - | - | - | - |
| 3. Measles | - | 88 | 2 | 1 | 91 |
| 4. Whooping Cough | - | 2 | - | - | 2 |
| 5. Food Poisoning | - | - | - | - | - |
| 6. Acute Primary Pneumonia | - | - | - | - | - |
| 7. Dysentery | - | - | - | - | - |
| 8. Poliomyelitis | - | - | - | - | - |
| 9. Diphtheria | - | - | - | - | - |
| 10. Paratyphoid | - | - | - | - | - |
| 11. Meningococcal Infection | - | - | - | - | - |
| 12. Puerperal Pyrexia | - | - | - | - | - |

Tuberculosis 1967.

The number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register as follows :-

| | Respiratory | | Non-Respiratory | |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------|---|-----------------|---|
| | M | F | M | F |
| Cases on the Register at 1st January 1967 | 12 | 8 | 1 | 1 |
| Additions - New Cases | 1 | 1 | - | - |
| Additions - Transfers in | - | 1 | | - |
| Deductions (Recovered, Died or left district) | 1 | 2 | - | 1 |
| Cases on the Register at 31st December 1967 | 12 | 8 | 1 | - |
| TOTALS | 20 | | 1 | |

After-Care Committee for South Worcestershire

Two meetings of this Committee were held at the Shire Hall during the year. Not a great deal of work has been done as the number of cases requiring assistance has been falling annually. Nevertheless, the Tuberculosis Health Visitors do find cases whose needs are outside the scope of the statutory bodies and then turn to the Committee, whose help is greatly appreciated.

THE END.

